Statement

State/UT	Number of District Fora
Andhra Pradesh	23
Arunachal Pradesh	12
Assam	23
Bihar	55
Goa	2
Gujarat	20
Haryana	16
Himachal Pradesh	12
Jammu & Kashmir	2
Karnataka	20
Kerala	14
Madhya Pradesh	45
Maharashtra	31
Manipur	8
Meghalaya	7
Mizoram	3
Nagaland	7
Orissa	31
Punjab	13
Rajasthan	32
Sikkim	4
Tamil Nadu	24
Tripura	3
Uttar Pradesh	72
West Bengal	19
Andaman & Nicobar	2
Chandigarh	
D & N Haveli	1
Daman & Diu	2
Delhi	2
Lakshadweep	1
Pondicherry	1
Total	508

Farm Exports

556. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the potential of the Andhra Pradesh remains grossly underutilised despite its being the second largest producer of fruits, vegetables and flowers in the country with about 11 lakh hectares under horticultural crops and a total production of 83.35 lakh tonnes.

(b) if so, whether the State's total export have risen from Rs. 1,724 crore in 1992-93 to Rs. 3,477 crore in 1994-95 and Rs. 5,172 crore this year and yet it is still only 5 per cent of the national export figure of Rs. 1,06,353 crore;

(c) if so, the main reasons for the same; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Andhra Pradesh has potential for horticulture development which is now being tapped gradually through investments from State and Central Governments.

(b) and (c) Statewise export figures of horticulture crops are not maintained. However, the exports of these crops is showing an average increase of over 25% annually for the country which is likely to improve further

(d) The Government is promoting a number of schemes in the State with the objective of improving production and quality of horticulture crops so that surplus could be generated for exports. Support is also being provided for developing infrastructure for post harvest handling and exports of these crops. In addition, fiscal incentive in form of relief on import duty, subsidy on freight, brand promotion etc. are also being extended.

Fencing of Border

557. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the date on which the scheme for fencing of the International Border with Pakistan in Jammu was finalised;

(b) the amount incurred on the scheme for its execution and the reasons for delay in executing the same, if any;

(c) the time schedule for completing the task alongwith the latest estimates of the expenditure; and

(d) the latest position of fencing the border in other areas, Statewise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Scheme for fencing/flood lighting of International Border in Jammu Sector was sanctioned on 28th March, 1995.

(b) An expenditure of Rs. 17.72 crores was incurred but the work had to be stopped in July, 1995 due to heavy firing from Pakistan side.

(c) The matter regarding re-starting fencing work of International Border in Jammu sector is under active consideration of the Government but no time schedule has been finalised.

(d) On the Indo-Pak border, fencing/flood lighting has been taken up in Punjab and Rajasthan and the position is as under :

PUNJAB : In Punjab fencing/flood lighting work of 451 Kms./465 Kms. was started in May, 1988 and completed in November, 1993. The entire border except certain gaps which could not be taken up due to being riverine/low lying area, was fenced/flood lit.

RAJASTHAN : Out of total border of 1035 Kms. fencing/flood lighting has been completed in 720 Kms./739 Kms. Further fencing/flood lighting in 312.60 Kms. has also been sanctioned. It will be completed by 31st December, 1999 in three phases. The balance border with shifting sand dunes is also being fenced with a special type of fencing.

Shrimp Farming

558. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether restrictions have been imposed on shrimp farming along the coastal belt; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgment delivered on 11.12.96 has imposed certain restructions on shrimp farming along the coastal belt. The judgment interalia states that :

(i) The Central Government shall constitute an authority under Section 3(3) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and shall confer on the said authority all the powers necessary to protect the ecologically fragile coastal areas, sea shore, water front and other coastal areas and specially to deal with the situation created by the shrimp culture industry in the coastal States, Union Territories. The authority so constituted by the Central Government shall implement 'the Precautionary Principle' and 'the Polluter Pays Principle'.

(ii) No shrimp culture pond can be constructed or set up within the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) except farms- practising traditional and improved traditional types of technologies in the coastal low lying areas. This shall be applicable to all seas, bays, estuaries, creeks, rivers and backwaters.

(iii) All aquaculture industries/shrimp culture industries/shrimp culture ponds operating/set up in the coastal regulation zone as defined under the CRZ Notification shall be demolished and removed from the said area before March 31, 1997.

(iv) No aquaculture industry/shrimp culture industry/ shrimp culture ponds shall be constructed/set up within 1000 meter of Chilka Lake and Pulicat Lake (including Bird Sancturies, namely, Yudurapattu and Nelapattu).

(v) Agricultural lands, salt pan lands, mangroves, wet lands, forest lands, land for village common purposes and land meant for public purposes, shall not be used/converted for construction of shrimp culture ponds

(vi) Aquaculture industry/shrimp culture industry/ shrimp culture ponds other than traditional and improved traditional may be set up/constructed outside the Coastal Regulation Zone with prior approval of the 'authority'.

(vii) The authority, in consultation with expert bodies like National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Central Pollution Control Board, respective State Pollution Control Boards shall frame scheme/schemes for reversing the damage caused to the ecology and environment by pollutions in the coastal States/Union Territories.

Fishing Potential on Gujarat Coastal Areas

559. SHRI SANAT MEHTA :
SHRI B.K. GADHVI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken steps to update the techno-feasibility studies on potential landing sites for fish on the coast of Gujarat;

(b) if so, when the study was done;

(c) the names of potential fish landing sites that have been studied in the Gujarat State; and

(d) details of the economic potential of each such site ?